

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

“Method and Apparatus for Elimination of Prolog and Epilog Instructions in a Vector Processor using Data Validity Tags and Sink Counters.”

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 1-5 with the following amended paragraph:

“In general, a loop comprises a prolog, a loop-body and an epilog. The prolog and epilog instructions are generally a subset of the instructions in the body of the loop. The prolog instructions are placed at the start of the loop, before the loop body and are used for priming the pipeline. The epilog instructions are placed at the end of the loop, after the loop body and are used for draining the pipeline. According to the present invention, mechanisms are provided to guard the execution (committing of results) to the correct subset of the loop-body. Consequently, the data path can repeatedly execute the loop-body, thereby eliminating the prolog and epilog code.”